



Crest Badge of a Member of Clan Hunter

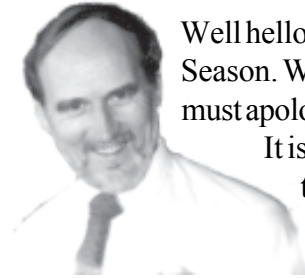
# hunters' halloo

Newsletter of the Clan Hunter Association, Canada

January 2002 Vol 3,5

## Inside this Issue

- 1 *Editor's Note*
- 2 *Family of Hunter of Balagan*
- 2 *Message from the Chief*
- 2 *Andrew Hunter*
- 3 *Tribute*
- 5 *The Falcons of Cumbray*
- 6 *To thee clan hunter*



Well hello again everyone. I hope everyone had a good Festive Season. We are running late on this issue of the newsletter and I must apologise for that.

It is with great sadness that I share the news that earlier this winter, Canada lost its first Clan Officer in the death of John Hunter, London Ontario. We have included a tribute to John in this newsletter and for those who have access to the web you will find a photographic slide show in memory of John. ([www.clanhuntercanada.com](http://www.clanhuntercanada.com)) He was a good friend and will be sorely missed.

Also in this news letter are a couple of articles sent to me from the UK. These are historical articles gleaned by a Scottish historian friend from old records. They are included just as they were received and are in some cases written in the "Old Language" which I personally find fascinating to read. e.g. "wild bestis" where we would say wild beasties (if in fact we would say that at all anymore) But the story I love best is the one of Hunter and McGachen scaring off the English army all by themselves. This may be one of those urban myths that we keep hearing about but I love it none the less.

If you read the minutes of the last annual general meeting you will remember that Clan Hunter has made an association of friendship with Clan Muirhead. Clan Muirhead cannot lay claim to lands, chief or castle and so have been invited to share in some events with Clan Hunter in a bond of friendship. On the back page of the newsletter you will find an expression of gratitude poured out by **Raymond L. Morehead Esq. FSA Scot.** President of the Muirhead Clan Society USA. If you should visit Hunterston Castle you will find a recently added item in the great Hall in the form of a beautifully carved hunting horn presented by Raymond to our Clan Chief Pauline.

*Tom*

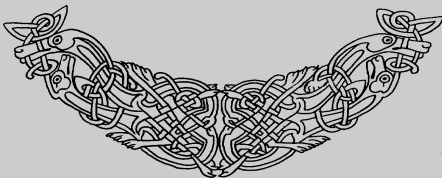
## *Family of Hunter of Balagan*

*(this story and the story of the Falcons of Cumbray were sent to me from the UK and unfortunately I can't recall the title of the reference book they were discovered in, but the copy did show references to the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow)*

Another ancient family in this parish was that of Hunter of Balagan, (who

was proprietor of Drumcroul, and some say Auchensel.) The house stood two miles north-west from Drumlanrig, on the west side of the Maarburn. As to the antiquity of this family, it is reported, with what truth I do not know, that, when King Robert

**Continued on page 2**



Dear Clansfolk:

The UK Association held its Memorial Service on September 8th at the Cenotaph, beside the site of the Battle of Flodden. It was at this famous battle that John Hunter, 14th Laird, lost his life serving King James IV. The Reverend Martin Gilham, of St Paul's church in Braxton, conducted the memorial service. Clan Hunter was joined by Stan and Eileen Forrester of Clan Forrester. Later in the evening at dinner, Gordon Hunter read a poem sent by Raymond Morehead commemorating those of Clan Muirhead who fell that same day in 1513.



On one of my trips to Scotland, I met with Eric Young, the Kilmarnock Football Club Community Coach. He introduced me to the newly formed Kilmarnock Cheerleaders. I watched these young women and was very impressed with their skill and professionalism. On hearing that they were looking for sponsors, I suggested that Clan Hunter and myself would be able to help them with some sponsorship to assist with premises for training. They have since been successful in obtaining further sponsorship and will be taking part in a film for TV. The Cheerleaders have recently been adopted by Kilmarnock Football Club (a Scottish Premier League Club) to give displays at half time during home matches. Kilmarnock Football Club has a strong commitment to football in the community and allows youngsters to come to football matches free. Coach Young provides coaching for all ages of youngsters in Ayrshire as part of a program to encourage young people to keep fit and healthy throughout their lives.

With great sadness, I report the death, on 28th November 2001, of John Hunter, the first Clan Officer for Clan Hunter in Canada. It was due to John's great enthusiasm and commitment to Clan Hunter and his Hunter roots that we have an active and successful Clan Hunter Association in Canada. I had the very great pleasure of awarding him The order of the Royal Huntsman for his services to our Clan on my last visit to Canada. We send our sincerest condolences to his wife, Marion, and his family.

I send all good wishes to everyone for Christmas and the new year. I hope the New Year brings peace to us all.

Your aye,  
Pauline.

**Continued from page 1**

Bruce was lying with the Scottish army near Glenwharne, and the English army at the moat in Balagan Holm, a man named Hunter, carrying



a trumpet, and another, named McGachen, bearing a pair of colours, came from the Scotch army to the head of the Glen called Balagan; and that the one blew his trumpet, and the other flourished his colours in sight of

the English army, who, apprehending that the Scottish forces were immediately upon them, were so much affrightened, that they fled out of the country. For which achievement, King Robert gave Hunter the lands of Balagan, and to McGachen the lands of Dalwhat. If this tradition be true, the family of Balagan would appear to be a very old one. The last of them, it is said, usually contended with James Menzies of Enock for precedency. But the family is now extinct. It terminated with three daughters, one of whom was married to \_\_\_\_\_ Hunter, of Polmood, in Tweeddale; another to James Graham, of Shaw, in the parish of Hutton, in Annandale; and the third to William Charteris, of Brigmoor, Commissary of Dumfries.

***Andrew Hunter  
Elementary School***

Andrew Frederick Hunter was born in Innisfil Township in 1863. He lived on lot ten, concession nine.

Andrew Hunter entered Barrie Central Collegiate as a rural student in 1878. Summer of 1882 he visited the evacuation of a Huron Bone Pit, the accuracy of Andrew Hunter's survey of Huron village sites was verified many years after his extensive work of the 1800s and 90s.

In the autumn of 1884 Hunter left for studies at the University in Toronto. In 1888 Hunter was accepted as a member

**Continued on page 5**

*John M W Hunter*  
*1924 - 2001*  
*Clan Officer - Canada 1984 - 1995*

On November 28th Canada lost its first Clan Officer in the death of John M. W. Hunter. John died peacefully surrounded by his family at Extencicare Nursing Home London, Ontario. John was in his 78th year.

John attended public and high school in Newmarket, Ontario, served three years with the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II, then on to the University of Western Ontario, receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree (1948/52) following this up in Industrial Advertising under the American Management Assn., Chicago, thence various courses in sales management and administration at the University of Western Ontario, finalizing with Marketing Management and Corporate Public Relations Management in 1971.

In 1967 he became President of the American Marketing Assn. (London Chapter), 2nd Vice President of the Central Erie Tourist Region in 1964. His other accomplishments included being a director of the London Chamber of Commerce, serving on committee for the Children's Aid Society, United Appeal of Greater London, Executive London Progressive Conservation Assn., and with the Anglican church, served several capacities Lay Delegate to Auditor of Finance Committee, besides acting as Chairman of the Youth Group Committee, the governing body of the Cubs and Scouts. John served in many capacities with the Canadian Cancer Society and was president of the Ontario Cancer Society 1981/83, and Chairman, Board of Directors and Executive. In 1982 he was Director and Executive Committee of the National Canadian Cancer Society. He was a member of the Canadian Club of London, The University Club of London and the London Chamber of Commerce. John retired as Director of Communications, Emco Ltd., and he and Marion raised five fine children: Bradley, Karen, Barbara, Kim and Roger (sadly deceased). John liked to play golf and was a member of Sunningdale Golf and Country Club.

John's family asked Tom Hunter, present Canadian Clan Officer, to do a short eulogy at the service. These are his words.....

*"What is it that is so special about a person that makes you smile at the sound of his name?"*

*I met John in 1987. My wife and I and three children were singing at the Scottish Heritage week at the London Art Gallery. After our performance a tall stately gentleman in a kilt introduced himself as the Clan Officer for the Hunter Clan in Canada. He invited us to join a group of Hunters at their annual clan Hunter association meeting and wondered if perhaps we would sing. I didn't even know that we had a clan Hunter Association and so after chatting with John for a little while we agreed to attend. I also didn't know what a clan officer was but John had such an aura that I must confess I was impressed. And so began a special relationship. John had such an enthusiasm for the clan and he just loved to be at the clan tent at the Fergus highland games. Very soon I found myself being carried along in his enthusiasm. It wasn't just me who recognized that John had something special. I watched him as he talked with visitors to the tent. Each person was treated as if they were someone really special. He made **me** feel special. He had a way of making everyone feel included. You see he was a gentleman. It sounds like an old fashioned word these days but that's exactly what he was. He was a gentleman.*

*John retired from active clan duties in 1995 but still at almost every Highland Games I attend, someone asks me about him.*

*In August of 1998 John received an award for extra special services rendered to Clan Hunter. This was presented by the chief of the clan personally in the form of a silver pin in the shape of a hunting horn. John was enrolled into the **Order of the Royal Huntsman**. John was one of three people who were the first ever to receive this award. I can only say no one deserved it more.*

*John was a man of quiet faith who walked in the Grace of God daily and when I read the following poem I thought of John.*

*I do not know what changes lie ahead  
What joy or sorrow  
What disappointment or what glad surprise  
May come tomorrow  
But this I know-  
Though smooth the road or rough  
As each day dawns  
His grace will be enough  
So in His strength  
I bravely venture forth in each New Year  
If in the water He should bid me walk  
I will not fear  
Convinced am I, that in the sun or shade  
He will be with me -  
I am not afraid*

*The Lord Bless him and keep him, The Lord make His face to shine upon him and be gracious unto him. The Lord lift up His countenance upon him and give him peace. I lost a friend this week, but I still smile when I think of him."*

Tom Hunter

Clan Officer - Canada





## The Falcons of Cumbray

(The authority  
for much of this is  
McKinlay's MS.  
Notes.)



I will now turn for a short time to the islands of Cumbray, the ownership of which is somewhat difficult to trace. The Hunters of Hunterston were heritable keepers of the island of Little Cumbray from time immemorial, one may see, and possessed the lands of South Kames (now the Newtown of Millport) from a very early period - at all events, from 1578. The Montgomeries of Skelmorlie and cadets of that family held the five merk land of old extent of Over Kames subsequent to 1536, when Gilbert Montgomery got a feu charter of the King's land of Over Kames, or Ballikellat; and of the same date, Alexander Montgomery, second son of Cuthbert, is designed of Portry. But I find that the lands of Portry, Balacewn, South Ballochmertin, and Figgidoch, were possessed by a branch of the Boyle family, descended from a second son, apparently, of John Boyle, in the reign of James III., until the lands fell into

the possession of the main line of the Kelburn family, it is believed through the marriage of Grizzel Boyle with the heir of the coroner of Meikle Cumbray, about the year 1656, and descended to their son, John Boyle of Kelburn, who died in 1685.

Alexander Stewart, a natural son of Stewart of Kilcattan, got a feu charter of North Ballochmertin, and is designed thereof in 1581, and the property continued in his family, at all events, till 1625. Of an earlier date, 1549, James Stewart, the sheriff of Bute, as before mentioned, obtained the three Kirktowns (now called Netherton, Kirkton, and Upper Kirkton), and Penmachrie, in Cumbray, in consideration of the compulsory sale to the Regent of the Sheriff's Arran estate; these rights were held by Sir James Stewart in 1658, and he also owned the lands of Figgidoch, now belonging to the Earl of Glasgow. The Hunters of Hunterston, in virtue of their forestry rights, maintained their claim to the falcons bred on the Red Farlands rocks, and it is stated that a serious dispute took place between the governor of Dumbarton Castle, as representing the King, and the Laird of Hunterston, regarding these falcons, which were claimed by the King as royal birds. The laird having refused to give up his rights or appear before the King at Edinburgh, the

governor was ordered to go with a force and seize him, when the refractory laird, having been joined by his neighbours, succeeded in repulsing the governor with loss. It is not known how the matter ended.

During the period of the occupation of the castle on the Little Cumbray as a royal residence, the Hunters were the custodiens till the year 1515 (28th Oct), when Hugh, Lord Eglington, who had been already made keeper of Rothesay Castle and Justiciary of Bute and Arran, was appointed "*fiar, correkar, and supplear of the isle of Litill Comercy,*" to resist and punish those destroying "*the wild bestis and grund of the samin quhil the King's (James V.) perfite age of fifteen years, because Robert Huntare of Hunterstone, forester of heritage of the said isle, may nocht resist because he is nocht of substance and power, without supplie and help,*" reserving certain rights to Hunter. This took place during the troubles consequent upon the death of John Hunter of Hunterston, who was killed at the Battle of Flodden, and when Robert was a minor. Robert afterwards, however, married Janet Montgomery, and in 1527 procured a charter from James V., conferring upon him and his spouse the full possession of the island.

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### Andrew Hunter: Continued from page 2

of the Canadian Institute as an archaeologist submitting his first newspaper.

Andrew Hunter returned home and was persuaded to buy the Barrie Examiner. He became the editor and publisher from 1889 to 1895. He lived from 1863 to 1940. He left to country



Andrew Hunter  
1883 - 1940

residents and their children a record of Heritage possibly the richest in the province of Ontario. This is why our school was named after this man, ANDREW HUNTER.

Andrew Hunter is the first school in Simcoe County to offer two school year calendars. This is a great success.

# *to thee clan hunter*

*to thee, clan hunter i raise my cup,  
hail to a grand lady, constant, kind of her noble line,  
to madam pauline clan chief and 30<sup>th</sup> laird of hunterston.  
and here's to robert hunter nae i can not forget,  
the best clan officer by land or sea.  
Best by far friend like new found kin to me.  
and too the cup is raised for all the hunters of the u.s.a.  
comrades and friends many far less as far away,  
all no less kith and kin to our ancestors in scotland wha! hae!  
to hunterston castle may it long stand a proud symbol of your clan,  
where a distant stranger heard one day the still baying of the hounds,  
and the hunter's horn still ringing over hallowed ground.  
where it's call echoes still from ancient ramparts standing tall,  
to gather the faithful hunter clansmen to this day,  
around pennons and flags of hunters of a new day.  
perhaps where kindred worth too shall one-day smile again,  
upon a kindred scottish clan displaced through circumstance and the mists  
of time,  
re-awakened now the muirhead clan will gather soon round with hunter  
friends.  
where under kindred banners held on high,  
the hunter and the muirhead clan will gather once again,  
and join our comrades in the great hall,  
and raise a toast to our ancestors and a many a good-morrow to us all.*

Raymond L. Morehead Esq. FSA Scot.

President of the Muirhead Clan Society USA